

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 13, 2012

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 13, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **sporadic** geographic spread of influenza. One influenza-associated hospitalization was reported. One specimen received at the DHMH Laboratories Administration tested positive for type B influenza by PCR. No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported, and the visits to sentinel providers and Maryland emergency departments for ILI were below expected levels.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

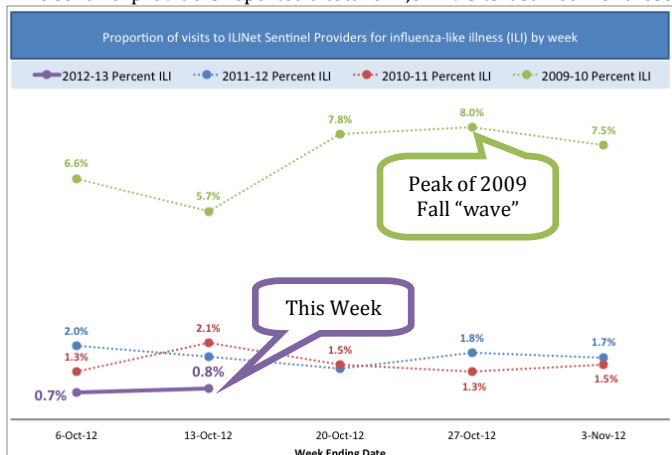
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

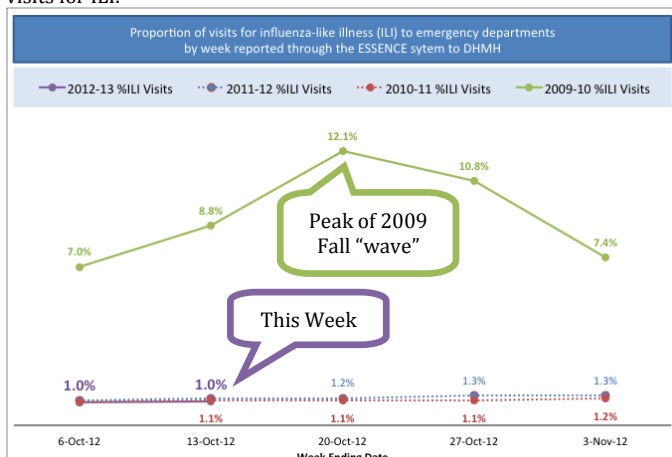
Nine sentinel providers reported a total of 7,841 visits last week. Of those, 67 (0.9%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	15 (22%)	11 (19%)	26 (21%)
Age 5-24	26 (39%)	28 (47%)	54 (42%)
Age 25-49	23 (34%)	13 (22%)	36 (29%)
Age 50-64	2 (3%)	6 (10%)	8 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	2 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	67 (100%)	59 (100%)	126 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,158 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 453 (1.0%) were visits for ILI.



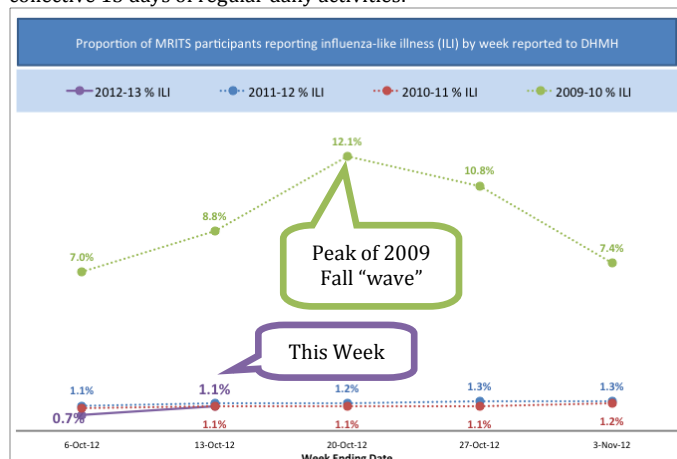
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	124 (27%)	123 (27%)	247 (27%)
Age 5-24	149 (33%)	133 (29%)	282 (31%)
Age 25-49	126 (28%)	138 (30%)	264 (29%)
Age 50-64	38 (8%)	48 (10%)	86 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	16 (4%)	16 (4%)	32 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	453 (100%)	458 (100%)	911 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oepe/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Residents Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

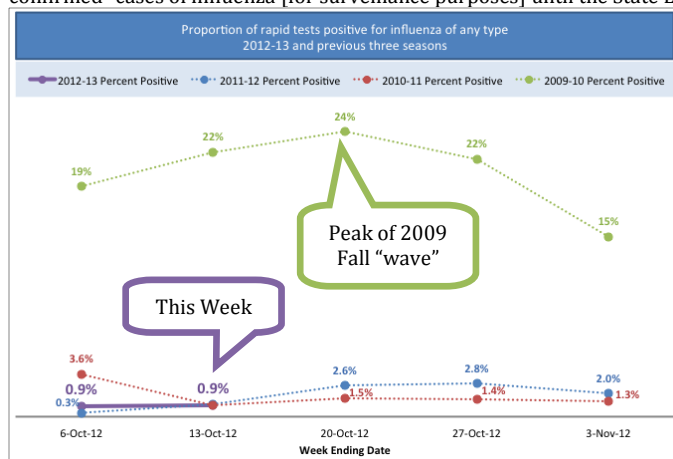
A total of 548 Maryland residents responded to the [weekly flu survey](#) this week. Of those, 6 (1.1%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a collective 13 days of regular daily activities.



Reports of ILI by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	1 (25%)	1 (10%)
Age 5-24	1 (17%)	1 (25%)	2 (20%)
Age 25-49	3 (50%)	--	3 (30%)
Age 50-64	2 (33%)	2 (50%)	4 (40%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	--
Total	6 (100%)	4 (100%)	10 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

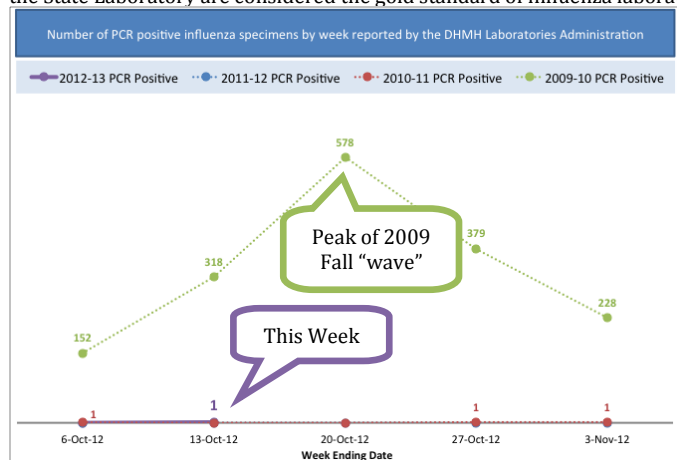
Twenty-six clinical laboratories reported 323 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 3 (0.9%) were positive for type B influenza. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests, particularly when influenza activity is low in the community. As a result, patients with a positive rapid test are not counted as "confirmed" cases of influenza [for surveillance purposes] until the State Laboratories Administration reports a positive PCR test.)



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	--	2 (67%)	2 (33%)
Type B	3 (100%)	1 (33%)	4 (67%)
Total	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	6 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 13 PCR tests for influenza. One was positive for type B influenza. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	--
Type A (H3)	--	--	--
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)
Total	1 (100%)	0	1 (100%)

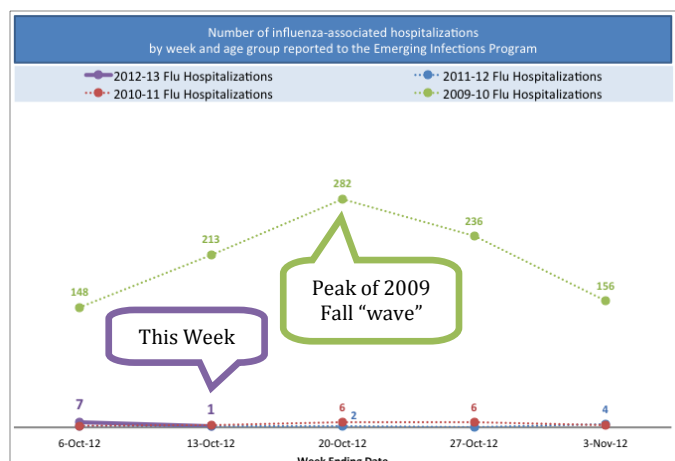
Please note that these data do not include the recently reported type A (H3N2) influenza cases reported in the press release dated October 19, 2012.

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2012-13 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumhd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

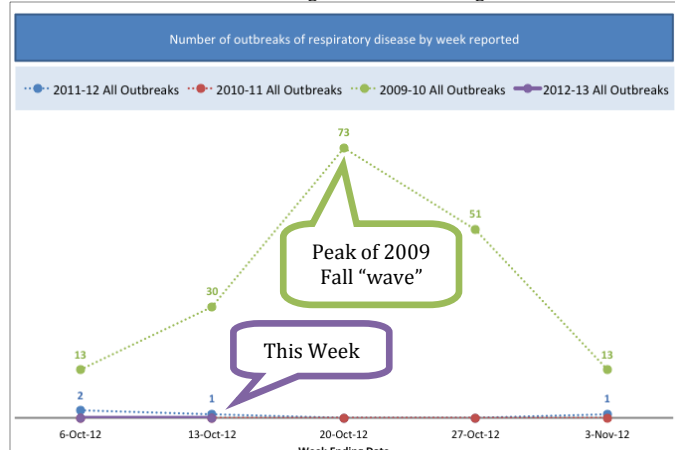
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 1 influenza-associated hospitalization. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	2 (50%)	2 (40%)
Age 5-17	1 (100%)	--	1 (20%)
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	--	1 (25%)	1 (20%)
Age 50-64	--	--	--
Age ≥ 65	--	1 (25%)	1 (20%)
Total	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	5 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--

There have been no outbreaks of respiratory disease reported to DHMH since September 30, 2012.

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During Week 41, influenza activity remained low in the United States.

Viral Surveillance: Of 3,285 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 41, 129 (3.9%) were positive for influenza.

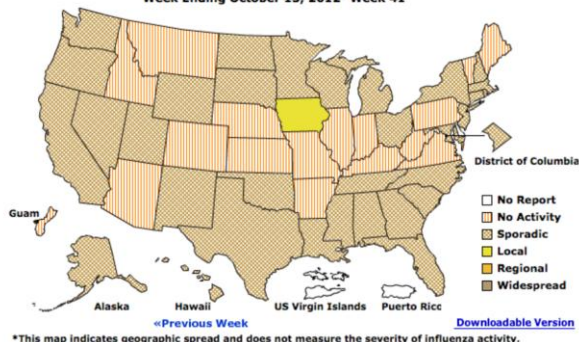
Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was at the epidemic threshold.

Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths: One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported and was associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was not determined.

Outpatient Illness Surveillance: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Forty-eight states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia and two states had insufficient data.

Geographic Spread of Influenza: The geographic spread of influenza in one state (Iowa) was reported as local; the District of Columbia and 32 states reported sporadic activity; Guam and 16 states reported no influenza activity; and Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and one state did not report.

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending October 13, 2012- Week 41



Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
2012-13 Influenza Season Week 41 ending Oct 13, 2012

